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**For Immediate Release**

November 21, 2013

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**VERNON JOINS NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PROGRAM**

**(Vernon)** – Mayor Dan Champagne today announced the town’s participation in the ***Wreaths Across America Day*** held in conjunction with wreath laying at Arlington Cemetery set to take place nationally on Saturday December 14, 2013 at 12:00 noon.

The mission of the Wreaths Across America program is to “Remember, Honor and Teach about the service and sacrifices of our veterans, active military, and their families” by laying seven ceremonial wreaths on the graves of soldiers representing each branch of military as well as Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. Each wreath is adorned with traditional red, hand-tied bows.

*“It is a privilege to remember the sacrifices of the brave men and women who have served and who currently serve for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans”* said Mayor Champagne. *“I am proud of Vernon’s participation in this event, and I hope in some small way that these wreaths will reflect our eternal appreciation for their dedicated service, and remind us of those who have fallen, to honor those who currently serve to protect, and to teach our children about great price paid for our freedoms”.*

The program began in 1992 by Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company, who found the company had surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Worcester realized the opportunity to honor our country’s Veterans and arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington Cemetery in a section which had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year. Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state, one for each branch of the military.

Sponsored locally by the Captain Noah Grant Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, Vernon is one of the 800 participating locations and one of 61 cemeteries in Connecticut who will be remembering our service men and women. Vernon’s service is planned for December 14, 2013 at 12:00 noon at the Grove Hill Cemetery (Lugg Field Veterans Section) located at 22 Cemetery Ave Vernon, CT 06066.

More information on the “Wreaths Across America” program can be found at [www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org). Those interested in volunteering may contact the Carol Nelson at (860)643-1462 or through e-mail at [nelsoncrls@aol.com](mailto:nelsoncrls@aol.com).